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QUESTIONS

IN

ANCIENT HISTORY.

For the use of Canadian Schools.

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QUESTIONS IN ANCIENT HISTORY.

INTRODUCTION.

Q. What is *Ancient History*?

A. *Ancient History* is an account of all remarkable events from the creation of the world to the birth of our Saviour.

Q. How is Ancient History divided?

A. Ancient History is divided into *Profane* and *Sacred History*.

Q. What is meant by Profane and Sacred History?

A. Sacred History relates events connected with religion; Profane History means all other records.

CHAPTER I

Chronological Outlines.

Q. How is the chronology of Ancient History divided?

A. Into six periods, commonly called the *Six Ages of the World*, viz: 1. from the creation of the world to the flood (1656 years); 2. from the flood to the calling of Abraham (427 years); 3. from the calling of Abraham to the law of Moses (430 years); 4. from the law of Moses to the dedication of Solomon's temple (486 years); 5. from the dedication of Solomon's temple to the end of the captivity of Babylon (467 years); 6. from the end of the captivity of Babylon to the birth of our Saviour (538 years).

FIRST AGE (B. C. 4004—2348.)

Q. What is known of the first age of the world?

A. Our knowledge of the events which occurred during the first age of the world is very limited, as no records of them exist but the Holy Scriptures. From these we learn that God made the world in the space of six days;

that the last and most perfect of his works were our first parents, Adam and Eve; that He created them in a state of innocence and happiness which they lost by eating the forbidden fruit; that they were driven out of the *Garden of Paradise* and condemned to misery and death with all their posterity, but were consoled by the promise of a Redeemer; that Cain, the first son of Adam, killed his brother, the innocent Abel, and built Henochia, the first of all cities; that Cain's descendants began to cultivate husbandry, music and the mechanic arts, whilst the children of Seth, Adam's third son, led a pastoral life, and were distinguished for their piety; that the "*days of man*" extended to nearly a thousand years; finally, that the whole earth having become corrupt and wicked, the Lord in his wrath destroyed by a universal deluge all its inhabitants, except the just Noah and his family.

SECOND AGE (B. C. 2348—1921).

Q. By whom is it supposed that the four quarters of the globe began to be inhabited after the flood?

A. After the separation of the children of Noah at the foot of the tower of Babel, in the plains of Chaldea, the sons of Sem extended towards the East and peopled the Asiatic continent, whence they probably passed into America; the sons of Japhet, towards the West and North, into Asia-Minor, the Caucasian mountains and Europe (*); the sons of Cham, Southward, into the African peninsula.

Q. What countries appear to have been the most anciently inhabited?

A. Chaldea, Egypt, Greece and the Chinese empire.

Q. Which are reputed the most ancient cities since the flood?

A. Babylon, on the Euphrates, where the tower of Babel stood; Ninive, on the Tigris, and Thebes in Upper Egypt: the ruins of these once magnificent cities are still to be seen.

Q. Who are the first kings mentioned in Ancient History?

A. Mesraim, a son of Cham, founded the Egyptian monarchy. Nemrod, a grandson of Cham, built Babylon

[*] The original inhabitants of Europe were the Celtes, or Gomerians, so called from Gomer, the eldest son of Japhet.

and was the first conqueror. Assur, a son of Sem, was the first Assyrian king—his capital was Ninive. Javan, the fourth son of Japhet, was the first who reigned in Greece. The Chinese attribute the origin of their monarchy to Yao, an early descendant of Noah.

Q. What nation seems to have the earliest cultivated the arts and sciences?

A. The Egyptians, who communicated their progress in the arts and sciences, their ideas of wise government and their knowledge of navigation to the Phenicians and Greeks.

THIRD AGE (B. C. 1921—1491).

Q. Who were the Hebrews, Israelites, or Jews?

A. They were the children of Abraham, a descendant of Heber, of the posterity of Sem, and a native of Chaldea.

Q. What are the most important events of the third age, as connected with the history of the Hebrews?

A. The calling of Abraham, his removal to the land of Chanaan, the special promise made to him of a Redeemer to be born of his race, the burning of Sodom and Gomorrah (B. C. 1897), the birth of Isaac and Ismael, of Esau and Jacob (1837), the wonderful history of Joseph, the descent of the twelve Patriarchs, or sons of Jacob, into Egypt (1706), the cruel bondage into which the Israelites were at last reduced by the Egyptian kings, and their miraculous deliverance by the hand of Moses.

Q. What celebrated cities were founded during the third age of the world?

A. The most celebrated were Memphis, the capital of Lower Egypt; Sicyon and Argos, Thebes and Corinth, Sparta and Athens in Greece; the famous city of Troy in Asia-Minor, and Tyre and Sidon on the Mediterranean.

Q. What happened in Greece towards the commencement of the third age?

A. A vast inundation, called the deluge of Deucalion, which by the ancient poets was mistaken for the universal flood (1528).

FOURTH AGE (B. C. 1491—1005).

Q. What are the leading events of the history of God's chosen people during the fourth age of the world?

A. Their journey through the desert; the promulgation made to them of the Mosaic law in the midst of thunders and lightning on mount Sinai; their wars with the inhabitants of the Promised Land, or land of Chanaan; the appointment after Josue's death (1245) of judges to govern them, the most renowned of whom were Gedeon, Jephthe, Samson and Samuel: finally, the establishment of monarchical government, first in the person of Saul (1095) and then of David, whose son Solomon built the noblest and most beautiful temple ever erected in honour of the Supreme Being.

Q. What celebrated personages appeared in the days of the Judges of Israel?

A. In the days of the Judges, if ever, appeared those far-famed heroes, Minos, Bacchus, Saturn, Jupiter, Hercules, Orpheus, and many others whom Greece and Rome in aftertimes adored as gods and demi-gods.

Q. What other events stand conspicuous in the history of the fourth age?

A. The conquest of the world by Sesostris, king of Egypt, and the memorable siege of Troy (1219—1209), which has been immortalised by Homer and Virgil.

Q. Which is the first republic mentioned in history?

A. The first republican form of government was that of the Athenians after the death of their virtuous and brave king Codrus, precisely at the time when Saul ascended the throne of Israel.

FIFTH AGE (B. C 1005—538).

Q. What change took place in the Jewish nation under Roboam, successor to Solomon?

A. Ten out of the twelve tribes revolted and formed a separate state, called the *Kingdom of Israel* (980); the remaining tribes, Juda and Benjamin, composed the *Kingdom of Juda*.

Q. What was the fate of the Jewish nation after the separation of the ten tribes?

A. The two kingdoms waged war incessantly against each other—in both, the people and princes relapsed into the worship of idols, and became so corrupt that the Lord in his anger permitted the Assyrians to invade the whole

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country. Salmanasar led the ten tribes away captive to Ninive, whence they never returned, and thus ended the kingdom of Israel (718). His son Sennacherib besieged Jerusalem, which was only saved by a miracle, the angel of God, at the prayer of good king Ezechias, having destroyed 185,000 men of the Assyrian army. One hundred and twenty two years after this, Nabuchodonosor the Great ruined the city, burnt the temple to the ground, and carried away (*) both king and people of Juda captive to Babylon (588).

Q. Did God warn his chosen people of their impending fate?

A. Yes; he sent in those days many holy prophets, the most illustrious of whom were Elias, Isaias, Ezechiel, Jeremias and Daniel.

Q. Name the most important events of profane history during the fifth age of the world?

A. The foundation of Carthage by a Tyrian colony (888) and of Rome (753) by Romulus, a descendant of Eneas; the rise and fall of the second Assyrian empire, which began at Ninive, under Phul (777), and ended at Babylon, with the reign of Balthasar (555); the commencement of the Olympian Games (776), and the appearance in Greece of Lycurgus, Esop, Pythagoras and the Seven Sages; the birth of Cyrus the Great (599), who founded the Persian empire, put an end to the Babylonian power and restored the captive Jews to liberty.

SIXTH AGE (B. C. 538).

Q. What are the principal events of Jewish history from the fall of Babylon to the Christian era?

A. The preservation of God's people from destruction through the means of Esther, queen of Persia; their return from captivity and the building of the second temple under Esdras and Nehemias; the visit of Alexander the Great to Jerusalem (332); the conquest of Judea by Ptolemy Soter, king of Egypt, and again, a hundred years after, by the kings of Syria; the cruel persecution of Antiochus; the victories of the Machabees over the Syrian generals; the re-establishment of monarchy in

[*] See *infra*, page 15.

the person of the high-priests (107), five of whom in succession are called the *Asmonæan kings*; and at last, after a long series of internal wars and commotions, the conquest of Judea by the Romans, who give the province to Herod, an Idumean prince (37): whereby "the sceptre was removed from the house of Juda," and thus according to the prophecy of the patriarch Jacob, the time appointed for the Saviour's birth was at hand.

Q. What are the chief events of profane history during the sixth age of the world?

A. The conquest of Egypt by Cambyases, successor to Cyrus; the celebrated wars of the Greeks with the Persians and between themselves; the reign of the Macedonian hero, Alexander the Great, whose mighty empire was at his death divided among his generals; the rapid progress of the Roman republic towards universal dominion; its wars with the Italian states, Carthage, Sicily, Macedon, Greece, Spain, the kings of Asia, the Gauls and Egypt—till at length the sceptre of the world was swayed by Augustus Cesar. Under this prince the greatest of all events took place—the REDEEMER promised to our first parents, to the patriarchs, to David and the prophets, was born in Bethlehem on the 25th day of December in the year of the world 4004.

CHAPTER II.

Of the Egyptians.

Q. What was the origin of the ancient Egyptians?

A. They were the descendants of Mesraim or Menes, grandson to Noah, and as early as 400 years after the flood composed a flourishing kingdom, in which the arts and sciences had made considerable progress.

Q. What is related of king Busiris?

A. He built in Upper Egypt the famous city of Thebes, which had a hundred gates and was filled with temples and palaces. He is also said to have put to death every stranger who dared to visit his dominions.

Q. What is known of king Osymandias.

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tion : "*The Soul's Medicine*." His tomb was the most splendid of all the Theban monuments. Osymandias is by some supposed to be the same as Memnon, whose statue uttered harmonious sounds at the rising of the sun.

Q. Who were the Pharaos ?

A. The Scriptures give the name of *Pharao* to all the kings of Egypt whose history is connected with that of God's chosen people, but particularly to the kings of Heliopolis in Lower Egypt, whither Abraham migrated, and where Joseph was sold (1729).

Q. Who was Nitocris ?

A. A powerful queen of Memphis in Lower Egypt (B. C. 1672). She conquered Thebes and built the second in size of the three great pyramids now extant. (The other two were built before her time.)

Q. Who were the *Shepherd Kings* ?

A. Near the time of Joseph's death, Salatis, king of the Arabs, entered Lower Egypt with an army of 240,000 men, and founded at Heliopolis a dynasty, called the *Shepherd Kings* ? Apophis, the last but one of them, was drowned with his army in the Red Sea whilst pursuing the children of Israel (1491).

Q. What immortalised the reign of king Meris (1422) ?

A. He caused a lake to be dug out, ten leagues in circumference, to receive the waters of the Nile when it overflowed too abundantly, and to supply the plains of Egypt when the inundation proved deficient.

Q. For what was Meris' son celebrated ?

A. Siphaoas, son of Meris (1379), added five days to the year, which before had only 360 days. He was famed for his philosophical writings. The Egyptians are said to have invented beer in his time.

Q. At what period do historians place the reign of Sesostris ?

A. It is not certain when this mighty conqueror lived : probably 1800 years before the christian era. His army was composed of 600,000 foot, besides 24,000 horse and 27,000 chariots of war—no vestige of his victories now remains.

Q. How did Sesac treat the kingdom of Juda ?

A. In the days of Roboam, successor to Solomon, Sesac

entered Judea with a numerous army, took the city of Jerusalem, plundered the royal palace, and carried away all the riches of the temple (971).

Q. Who were the *Twelve Kings*?

A. The impious Sennacherib, king of Assyria, having invaded Judea and besieged Jerusalem, Tharaca, king of Egypt, marched against him, but was defeated and driven back into his own kingdom. The Assyrians followed, overran and ravaged the whole country, and returned with immense spoils to Jerusalem (*). After this disaster, Egypt fell into a state of anarchy (687), during which twelve governors divided the land between themselves, and agreed to reign peaceably with equal authority each over his own province. As a monument of their mutual good understanding, they built the famous Labyrinth, which consisted of twelve palaces richly adorned and so united together that visitors could never find their way out of them, without the help of a guide.

Q. Who was Psammetichus?

A. One of the Twelve Kings: after a reign of fifteen years, he was forced to leave his province by the jealousy of his colleagues; but, at length (670), with the assistance of some Grecian soldiers, he expelled them all and became sole master of Egypt. He next made war against the Assyrians and consumed 29 years at the siege of Azotus in Palestine.

Q. Relate the most remarkable events of the reign of Nechao.

A. This prince (615) continued the war against the Assyrians. Josias, king of Juda, having refused him a passage through Palestine, was defeated and killed in the plains of Mageddo.—The victor marched immediately to Jerusalem, took and plundered the city, imprisoned Joachas, successor to Josias, appointed Joakim king in his stead, and imposed a tribute on the whole country. He then proceeded on his way, and extended his conquests to the shores of the Euphrates. By the order of Nechao (600), a Phenician expedition set out from a port of the Red Sea, and after a three years navigation returned by the straits of Gibraltar, having sailed round Africa.

* See *supra*, page 5.

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Q. What became of the ancient Egyptian monarchy?

A. Soon after Necho's time, Egypt was ravaged and ruined by Nabuchodonosor the Great.—Seventy years later (525), the Persians, under Cambyses, became masters of the country, and retained it till they were themselves conquered by Alexander.

Q. Give a few details concerning the wisdom, laws, customs and religion of the ancient Egyptians?

A. The Egyptians were accounted the wisest and most learned nation of the world. Their kings were obliged to administer justice to the people, in which they were however assisted by a certain number of magistrates. Idleness and beggary were totally proscribed. The dead were subject to a sort of public judgment: if their lives had been vicious, they were interred without honour; if the sentence was a favourable one, they were embalmed and returned to their relations. These embalmed bodies were called *mummies*, some of which still exist and are 3,000 years old. A law prohibited lending money except on condition that the borrower should pawn his father's body, it being reputed infamy not to redeem such a pledge in due time. The Egyptians were fond of new inventions, but utility was constantly preferred to amusement. No other nation even attempted such gigantic and durable monuments as their *pyramids* and *obelisks*, which seem to defy the ravages of time. Their writing consisted of peculiar signs and figures, called *hieroglyphics*. They believed in the immortality and transmigration of souls. Their religious worship was a mixture of the most absurd and stupid species of idolatry. Their chief divinity, Apis, was a living ox; dogs, wolves, crocodiles, cats, apes, and even the plants that grew in their gardens, were objects of divine honour.

Q. By whom was the new, or second, Egyptian monarchy founded and how long did it last?

A. It was founded by Ptolemy, one of Alexander's generals (323). His descendants occupied the throne for about 300 years, that is, till Egypt was made a Roman province in the reign of Augustus Cæsar (30).

Q. Relate the most remarkable events of the Ptolemæan dynasty.

A. Ptolemy Lagus, its founder, was a valiant, brave, and good man.—He protected the arts and sciences, and commenced the famous library of Alexandria, which contained 700,000 volumes. Ptolemy Philadelphus imitated his father, built the Pharos of Alexandria, which was reputed one of the seven wonders of the world, and caused the Holy Scriptures to be translated into Greek, from a copy in golden letters sent him by the high-priest of the Jews. Ptolemy Evergetes (246) was successful in war, and a lover of science, being himself a learned writer.

The history of the twelve following Ptolemæan princes offers a perpetual series of wars with the kings of Syria, of domestic rebellions, and of atrocious crimes, in which last they were all exceeded by the cruel and treacherous Cleopatra (51—30).

CHAPTER III.

Of the Assyrians.

Q. What countries originally formed the Assyrian monarchy?

A. The fertile plains of Babylonia (or Chaldea) and Assyria, situated east and west of the river Tigris.

Q. Who founded the first Assyrian monarchy?

A. Nemrod (B. C. 2104), whom the Scriptures call "*a stout hunter*." He was grandson to Cham, and the first king on record.—By the labours of the chase, he trained up young men to bear fatigue and face dangers with courage. He then built cities, the first of which were Babylon and Ninive, subdued his neighbours, and united them under the same authority.

Q. Who succeeded to the sovereign power after the death of Nemrod?

A. His son Ninus (2059), who, with the assistance of the Arabians, conquered a vast extent of country from Egypt to India. Under this prince, Ninive became the largest and noblest city in the world.

Q. By whom was the city of Babylon made to rival Ninive in grandeur and beauty?

A. Ninus' widow, the famous queen Semiramis (2007),

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adorned Babylon with many stupendous works, the principal of which were the walls, quays and bridges; the lakes, banks and canals; the palace, the hanging gardens, and the temple of Belus (*).

Q. What was the favorite occupation of queen Semiramis?

A. War and conquest. She was endued with great personal courage, and used to put herself at the head of her armies when they marched to battle.

Q. How did Semiramis oppose the Indian mode of warfare, and what was the result of her stratagem?

A. The Indian made use of elephants, on the backs of which were little castles filled with armed men. As Semiramis had no elephants, she caused a number of camels to be dressed up in the same manner, but her mock elephants could not stand against the real ones; the Assyrian army was overcome, and the queen, after having been twice wounded, escaped only through the speed of her courser.

Q. What kind of life did Ninyas lead?

A. Ninyas (1965), son and successor to Semiramis, lived in peace; being wholly intent on his pleasures, he shut himself up in his palace at Ninive, and seldom showed himself to his subjects, leaving the charge of every thing to his ministers. To preserve order, and prevent conspiracies, he kept a certain number of troops, whom he renewed yearly.

Q. What is said of the successors of Ninyas?

A. They are said to have imitated his example for thirty generations, that is, during nearly twelve hundred years.

Q. Name the last king of the first Assyrian monarchy?

A. Sardanapalus (840), who surpassed all his predecessors in luxury and effeminacy. This weak and foolish prince used to dress in female attire, and sit and spin with the women in his palace.

Q. Who formed a conspiracy against Sardanapalus?

A. Arbaces, governor of Media, and Belsis, governor of Babylon. They defeated him in battle and pursued him to the gates of Ninive, where they besieged him for three years.

* Belus, Baal or Bel, supposed to be the same with Nemrod, was the chief divinity of the Babylonians.

Q. What was the fate of Sardanapalus ?

A. An inundation of the Tigris having thrown down a great part of the city wall and opened a passage to the enemy, Sardanapalus ordered a vast funeral pile to be erected, in which he burnt himself, his eunuchs, his women and his treasures. The Assyrian monarchy was then for a time divided into three kingdoms, Media, Babylon and Ninive.

Q. Where did the second Assyrian monarchy begin ?

A. At Ninive, under Phul (777), who established a tributary king over the Babylonians, and made their city the centre of trade with Egypt, Arabia and India.

Q. Name the first king of Assyria that made himself celebrated after the death of Phul ?

A. Teglath-Phalassar (745), who invaded the kingdom of Israel and carried a part of the inhabitants away captive to Assyria : he afterwards marched against Syria, subdued it, and transplanted the inhabitants into Media.

Q. Who succeeded Teglath-Phalassar ?

A. Salmanasar (730), who invaded the remaining part of the kingdom of Israel, ravaged the country and carried away all the people captive beyond the Euphrates (718).

Q. What have you to relate of Sennacherib ?

A. Sennacherib (712) declared war against the kingdom of Juda, and besieged Jerusalem with a great army. Having written to Ezechias a letter full of blasphemy against God, he suddenly marched away to meet the king of Egypt, who was advancing to succour the Jews, defeated him, persued him into his own country, and returned laden with spoils to Jerusalem (*). The city seemed inevitably lost, but Ezechias laid the impious letter upon the altar of the Lord, praying that he would vindicate his own cause, and save his people : and the Lord, that very night, sent an angel, who smote 185,000 men of the Assyrian army. Sennacherib then fled in haste to Ninive, where his two eldest sons conspired against him, killed him in the temple of his gods, and immediately fled into Armenia.

Q. Who succeeded Sennacherib ?

* See *suprà*, page 5.

A. His youngest son Assarhaddon (710), who conquered the Babylonians and Jews. The wicked Manasses, king of Juda, was loaded with chains, and carried away prisoner to Babylon, whence the Lord, moved by his repentance, permitted him to return to his kingdom some years after.

Q. Who were the three next kings after Assarhaddon?

A. Nabuchodonosor the First (669) (*), who defeated the Medes in several pitched battles, levelled their capital Ecbatana with the ground, and put to death their king, Phraortes (the Arphaxad of Scripture); Saracus (648), a weak and effeminate prince; and Nabopolassar (625), a Babylonian general, who in conjunction with Cyaxares I, king of the Medes, revolted against Saracus, killed him and utterly destroyed the great city of Nineve. Babylon thus became the capital of the second Assyrian, henceforth called the *Babylonian* empire.

Q. Who was the most powerful and celebrated of the Babylonian kings?

A. Nabuchodonosor the Second, or the great (604), son of Nabopolassar. He defeated Nechao's army near the Euphrates,—subdued Syria and Palestine—twice besieged, took and plundered Jerusalem, after which he threw down the walls of the holy city, burnt the temple of Solomon to the ground, and carried away (†) both princes and people to Babylon (588). In the 21st year of his reign, he began the siege of Tyre, which lasted 13 years. The destruction of Tyre was followed by the conquest of Egypt, whence he returned in triumph to his capital, having now, as he vainly supposed, laid the whole world prostrate at his feet.

Q. What effect did the good fortune of Nabuchodonosor the Great produce on his mind?

A. Elated with pride at the sight of his victories and of the magnificent works he had added to Babylon, Nabuchodonosor began to claim divine honours and to compel his subjects, under pain of death, to adore his golden

* Under this prince happened the history of Judith.

† The captivity of the Jews so often foretold by the prophet Jeremiah began, with the FIRST siege and plunder of Jerusalem 68 by Nabuchodonosor the Great, when Joakim was put in chains, but afterwards released upon his promise to pay an annual tribute.

statue. The punishment of Heaven awaited his blasphemies; he was reduced, as the prophet Daniel had predicted, to such a state of insanity that for seven years he wandered among the wild beasts, living upon grass: "his hairs grew like the feathers of eagles, and his nails like birds' claws." He recovered, twelve months before his death, and by a solemn edict proclaimed throughout his dominions the power and wisdom of the true God.

Q. What memorable event occurred soon after the reign of Nabuchodonosor the Great?

A. The siege of Babylon (555) by Cyrus and Darius the Mede (*). Instead of watching and opposing his formidable enemies, the proud and cruel Baltassar gave his courtiers a great entertainment, during which he had the impiety to profane the holy vessels brought from the Jewish temple by his grandsire, Nabuchodonosor II. A mysterious hand was immediately seen writing on the wall of the apartment, in characters unknown to the dismayed assembly; the prophet Daniel thus explained them: "*Mane.*—God hath numbered thy kingdom and hath ended it. *Thecel.*—Thou art weighed in the balance and art found wanting. *Phares.*—Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians." That same night the city was taken, Baltassar slain, and Darius the Mede ascended the throne of Babylon.

CHAPTER IV.

Of the Persians and Medes.

Q. What was the origin of the Persians?

A. The Persians, called in Scripture *Elamites*, were a very ancient people, descended from Elam, the eldest son of Sem.

Q. What is known of the early history of the Persians?

A. The only event on record is, that in the days of Abraham one of their kings, named Chodorlahomor, with four allied princes, invaded Palestine pillaged Sodom, and carried away Lot and his family, who were rescued by the patriarch and his servants (1912).

* See infra, page 15.

Q. Who were the Medes ?

A. A warlike nation, closely resembling the Persians in religion [*], laws and manners, who inhabited the country south of the Caspian sea. At the death of Sardanapalus, they were freed from the Assyrian yoke and for a while lived under a republican form of government; but anarchy having prevailed, they elected a king, Dejoces (710), who built the beautiful city of Ecbatana. His four immediate successors, all tributaries to the Assyrians, were : Phraortes, who subdued Persia and upper Asia, but was defeated and put to death by Nabuchodonosor I ; Cyaxares I, who waged a successful war against the Assyrians, but was unable to resist the Scythians : Astyages, grandfather to Cyrus, by his daughter Mandane, who married the son of the Persian king Achemenes ; and Cyaxares II, called in Scripture Darius de Mede.

Q. Who is commonly considered as the founder of the Persian monarchy ?

A. Cyrus the Great, born about 600 years before the Christian era.

Q. For what was Cyrus highly renowned ?

A. For his virtue, courage, wisdom and penetration.

Q. Relate an anecdote of Cyrus' youth.

R. At the age of twelve, he paid a visit to his grandfather Astyages, king of Media, who prepared a magnificent banquet and ordered Cyrus to perform the office of the king's cupbearer. When the repast was over : "I was pleased, said Astyages to Cyrus, with the grace and dexterity of my cupbearer, but he forgot one essential ceremony.... he did not TASTE the liquor he presented.—I did not forget it, replied Cyrus, but I feared it was poison.—Poison! exclaimed Astyages, how so ?—Yes, father, said Cyrus. The other day, I perceived that after drinking this liquor, all the company lost their wits : they shouted, sung and laughed at random ; you appeared not to remember that you were a king, nor they, that they were your subjects. In short, when you attempted to walk, you could not even stand.—What! said Astyages, does not the same thing happen to your father?—Never, answered Cyrus : when he has done drinking, he is no longer thirsty.... nothing else happens to him."

Q. Name the two most celebrated exploits of Cyrus the Great.

A. The battle of Thymbria (556), where Cresus, king of Lydia, famed for his immense riches, was vanquished and made prisoner ; and the siege of Babylon, seventeen years after which Cyrus ascended the throne (538). His empire, which he divided into one hundred

* The worship of the sun, and the belief in a good and evil god, were peculiar traits of their religion. Their priests were called *MAGES*,

and twenty provinces, now extended from the Indus to the Mediterranean and Euxine seas, and from the Persian gulph to Scythia.

Q. Who succeeded Cyrus the Great ?

A. His son Cambyses, who added Egypt to his dominions. His character was all violence and cruelty ; he killed his sister and his brother, and was slain accidentally by his own sword, in the act of mounting his horse to march against Smerdis the *Mage*, or the *Impostor*.

Q. By whom was Cambyses succeeded (522) ?

A. By Darius Hystaspes *, under whom the Babylonians revolted. Darius besieged them, took their city, beat down their walls, and gave their effects for a spoil to the Persians [515].

Q. For what is the reign of Darius Hystaspes memorable ?

A. Having reduced Babylon, he marched against the Scythians with an army of 600,000 men, who nearly all died of thirst and hunger. But the most memorable event of Darius' reign was the commencement of the 50 years war between the Greeks and Persians. To punish the Athenians for having assisted the Ionians in their revolt, Darius sent into Greece an army of 110,000 men, which was completely routed by 10,000 Greeks under Miltiades, at the famous battle of Marathon [490]. Enraged at the news of this defeat, the monarch determined to march in person with all the forces of his empire ; but death prevented him from carrying his plans into execution.

Q. Who succeeded Darius Hystaspes ?

A. His son Xerxes I [485]. This prince assembled an army of more than two millions of men, passed the Hellespont on a bridge of boats, overran Thracia, Macedonia and Thessaly, but was arrested during two days at the pass of Thermopylæ by 300 Spartans, who with their king Leonidas all perished, after having killed 20,000 of Xerxes best troops. He afterwards marched to Athens, which he took and burnt, the Athenians having retired to

* Smerdis reigned 7 months, the generality of the Persians believing him to be the genuine son of Cyrus. The imposture was detected by one of his wives ; during his sleep she discovered that his ears had been cut off, a punishment which it was known Cyrus had inflicted on Smerdis the *Mage*.

their ships—next, his fleet attacked that of Greece, commanded by Themistocles, and was almost totally destroyed at the battle of Salamis. After a second defeat by sea (at Mycale), Xerxes fled to Asia, leaving behind him 300,000 men under the command of Mardonius. These were completely beaten at Platea by Pausanias and Aristides,...so that scarcely 4,000 Persians ever regained their native country. Xerxes was put to death by his subjects, for his luxury, cruelty and ill success.

Q. Give a brief account of Xerxes' four immediate successors?

A. His son, Artaxerxes I (473), continued the war with the Greeks, and after many defeats and losses was compelled to sue for peace by Cimon the Athenian.—The banished Themistocles was kindly received at the court, of this prince, and died a voluntary death by poison, rather than assist in invading his native country. The next king of Persia was Xerxes II (424); he reigned only forty-five days, and was assassinated by his brother Sogdianus, who enjoyed the fruit of his fratricide only 6 months and a half, when he was smothered in ashes. The fourth was Darius Notus, a weak and indolent prince, under whom Egypt recovered its independence. He took part in the Peloponnesian war, then raging in its greatest fury.

Q. Why was Artaxerxes II called *Mnemon*, and for what is his reign remarkable?

A. Artaxerxes II (405) was called *Mnemon* on account of his prodigious memory. His reign is remarkable for the *Retreat of the Ten Thousand Greeks* (401), belonging to the army of his brother Cyrus whom he killed in single combat.

Q. Name the two next kings of Persia?

A. Ochus and his son Arses; both were poisoned by the Egyptian Bagoas, their chief minister.

Q. With whom did the Persian empire fall?

A. With Darius Codomannus, who was attacked and defeated by Alexander the Great, in the three celebrated battles of the Granicus, Issus and Arbela. Darius was killed by one of his generals whilst attempting to raise a new army (330).

CHAPTER V.

Of the Greeks.

Q. What were the principal division of Ancient Greece?

A. Ancient Greece, in its most prosperous times, comprised Macedonia, Thessaly, Epirus, Greece Proper, Peloponnessus and the Islands. Nearly all the coasts of Asia Minor, Italy and Sicily, were also inhabited by Grecian colonies.

Q. What was the social state of the Greeks in the earliest ages?

A. Their earliest history is so completely lost in fabulous accounts that little can be said of them with certainty. The primitive inhabitants are generally represented as living in a state of extreme barbarity. Pelasgus the Egyptian (B. C. 1700 ?) instructed them in the choice of their food, in the construction of houses, and in providing themselves with clothes made from the skins of beasts. The Phenician Cadmus (1494) taught them the use of letters. Their ideas of religion appear to have been borrowed chiefly from the Egyptian mythology.

Q. Name the most considerable kingdoms and republics of Ancient Greece.

A. The chief kingdoms were Sicyon, Argos, Mycenæ, Thessaly, Arcadia, Macedon, Epirus and Messenia ; the four great republics were Lacedæmon or Sparta, Athens, Thebes and Corinth. (*)

SICYON AND ARGOS.

Q. What is known of Sicyon and Argos?

A. Sicyon (1836) was the most ancient, but never a powerful kingdom. It lasted seven hundred years and finally became united to Argos. Among the most remarkable sovereigns of the latter were : Inachus, its founder, a Phenician [1823] ; Argus, said to be the first who yoked oxen to the plough ; Danaus, and Egyptian prince, whose ship was the first ever seen in Greece... and Perseus, of whom many wonders are related.

* All the Grecian republics were at first governed by kings.

MYCENÆ.

Q. Name the most celebrated kings of Mycenæ.

A. Its founder was Perseus, who had exchanged his own kingdom for this, and whose descendants called the *Heraclidæ*, from Hercules, his great-grandson, were expelled [1320] from the Grecian peninsula [now Morea] by the Pelopidæ, so called from Pelops, a Phrygian prince. The Heraclidæ returned after about two hundred years, and gave new sovereigns to several Grecian states. The descendants of Pelops were frightfully conspicuous : among them we may mention Eurystheus, who imposed on Hercules the *Twelve Labours*, so much exaggerated by fable ; Atreus, who served at table the flesh of his nephews to their father Thyestus ; Agamemnon, the leader of the Greeks against Troy ; and Menelaus, king of Sparta, whose wife Helen was the cause of that war.

THESSALY.

Q. Give a brief account of Thessaly.

A. Thessaly included seven nations, from whom most of the other Greeks were probably descended. They were excellent equestrians and perhaps the first in Greece who rode upon horses. Their treachery and dishonesty were proverbial. Saturn, or his son Jupiter, was their first king.—The deluge of Deucalion, the expedition of the Argonauts, and the battle of Pharsalia, are celebrated events of Thessalian history. The country was alternately subject to Epirus and Macedon, and at length became a part of the latter kingdom.

ARCADIA.

Q. What have you to remark of the Arcadians ?

A. They were the most ancient inhabitants of Peloponnessus, and pretended to be of older date than the moon. Pelasgus was their first king. Their country was called the *land of shepherds*, yet they loved military fame, and frequently hired themselves to fight the battle of neighbouring states. In their absence, they committed the care of their flocks to the Arcadian women, who were not inferior in courage and strength to the men.

MACEDON.

Q. By whom was the kingdom of Macedon founded ?

A. By Caranus, an Argive, descended from Hercules [800]. Nothing important is related to this kingdom till the reign of Philip II [*].

EPIRUS.

Q. What is there deserving notice in the history of Epirus?

A. The Epirotes were a hardy race of mountaineers, accustomed from infancy to the use of arms and inferiors to none in bravery. Among their princes were Neoptolemus, son of the famous Achilles; and Pyrrhus II, who invaded Italy and gained a celebrated victory over the Romans [280]. Two very remarkable places in Epirus were the wood of Dodona, the trees of which delivered the oracles of Jupiter; and the promontory of Actium, near which the fate of the world was decided between Octavius and Antony.

SPARTA.

Q. Did the kingdom of Messenia long maintain its independence?

A. Messenia was from its foundation [1500] an object of jealous hatred to the Spartans, who never suffered its inhabitants to live in peace and independence, and, at last, after three most bloody wars, partly enslaved them, and partly expelled them out of Peloponnessus (455).

MESSENIA.

Q. What have you to relate of Sparta or Lacedæmon, prior to the days of Lycurgus?

A. Sparta, the capital of Laconia, was founded about fifteen hundred years before Christ, by Lelex, a native Greek. Its third king, Lacedæmon, gave his name to the country and that of his wife to the city: among his descendants were Castor, Pollux, Helen and Clytemnestra, all famed among the poets. About a hundred years after the siege of Troy, two brothers, the sons of Aristodemus, began to reign jointly, and this twofold monarchy, transmitted to the posterity of each, continued for nearly 900 years.

Q. Who were the Helots?

A. No people of a neighbouring territory, who were subdued and made slaves by the Lacedæmonians [1050].

* See *Class. Dict.* 3.

The inhuman treatment inflicted on them frequently urged them to revolt, and their lives were then at the disposal of their masters.

Q. What changes in the government and laws of Sparta were introduced by Lycurgus?

A. This great man (884), having been invested with full power to reform the constitution of his country, employed several years in ripening his plans and in visiting foreign states, particularly the isle of Crete (now Candia), where the laws of Minos (1406) had been for centuries a just theme of admiration. On his return he established a senate of 28 members; created 5 ephori or tribunes of the people; divided all the lands of the republic into equal portions; substituted iron money instead of gold and silver; ordained that all the citizens, not excepting their kings, should eat together in public, and that temperance and frugality should preside at their meals...and made various other striking regulations, particularly with regard to the education of the Spartan youth, who were taught most strictly to obey parents, respect old age, endure fatigue, hunger and thirst, and condemn every sort of danger.

Q. What extraordinary method did Lycurgus employ to perpetuate his institutions?

A. He told the people that something still remained for the completion of his plans, and that he must consult the oracle of Apollo at Delphos (*) concerning it. In the mean time he made them promise on oath to observe all he had prescribed till he came back. He then went to Delphos, and the oracle having responded that his laws were sufficient to render the Spartans happy, he sent this answer home and voluntarily died of starvation.

Q. What do you remark on the laws of Lycurgus?

A. They were in many respects admirable, in others unjust and cruel, and in general were only fitted to train up a nation of soldiers.

Q. Name a few of the great men of Sparta?

A. From the nature of their institutions, the Lacedæmonians could scarcely aspire to ought but military fame:

* The most celebrated oracle of the heathen world; ambiguity and obscurity was the general character of its responses.

in that point of view, they were a nation of heroes. Among their most renowned generals we may mention Leonidas, immortalized by his resistance at the pass of Thermopylæ; Pausanias, who commanded with Aristides at the battle of Plataea, Eurybiades, who fought at Salamis; Gylippus, who defended Syracuse against the Athenians [415]; Lysander, who put an end to the Peloponnesian war [404]; Agesilaus, the terror of Artaxerxes Mnemon and the rival of Epaminondas; Xantippus, who headed a Carthaginian army [255] in the first Punic war, &c.

Q. At what period did the Lacedæmonians attain their highest degree of prosperity?

A. At the close of the Peloponnesian war. They had then humbled Athens; destroyed a combined army of Greeks at Coronea, and laid hold of the Theban citadel. The kings of Persia courted their alliance, and Syracuse looked up to them for protection against its enemies.

Q. What was the fate of the Spartan republic?

A. The prosperity of Sparta proved the source of her ruin. The laws of Lycurgus were neglected; luxury and the love of riches began to enervate the people; their kings became arbitrary and cruel tyrants; and in the midst of this general decay, they imprudently engaged in a war with the Achæan league [*] commanded by Philopemen, surnamed the *Last of the greeks*, who beat down their walls and abolished their institutions [189].

ATHENS.

Q. What have you to relate of the early history of Athens?

A. It was founded [1556] by Cecrops, who came with a numerous Egyptian colony into that part of Greece called Attica, and built 12 cities or villages, of which Cecropia, since Athens, was the capital. He raised the first altar in Greece to Jupiter, instituted laws concerning marriage, and appointed the august tribunal of Areopagus, long celebrated for the rigid impartiality of its decrees. Amphictyon, the third king of Athens, gave his name to the Amphictyonic council, composed of delegates from all

* A confederation of several Grecian cities, founded [234] with a view to defend their liberties against various petty tyrants, and particularly against the kings of Macedon.

the Grecian states, who assembled twice yearly at the pass of Thermopylæ. The 17th and last of the Athenian kings was Codrus, who saved his country at the expense of his life, in a battle against the Heraclidæ [1095]. Out of veneration, it is said, for the memory of Codrus, the people abolished royalty and appointed a sort of magistrates called Archons, whose office at first continued for life, but was afterwards limited to ten years and finally to one year's duration.

Q. What was the effect of the laws of Draco [624] ?

A. The condition of the people, hitherto miserable for want of sufficient authority in the Archons, became more so by the extreme severity of Draco's laws, which inflicted the punishment of death on the slightest offences. These laws were abandoned, and Solon, one of the Seven Sages, was invited to prepare a new code.

Q. Did the institutions of Solon resemble those of the Spartan legislator ?

A. No ; the institutions of Solon were framed in a spirit of mildness and in accordance with the habits of his countrymen. He cancelled the debts of the poor, by a law of insolvency ; restricted the punishment of death to cases of murder only ; divided the people into four classes in proportion to their riches, giving to the first all the offices of the commonwealth, and to the fourth, which was more numerous than all the other three, the right of voting in the public assemblies ; instituted a senate of 400 members, with whom every measure was to originate before it could be discussed by the people ; in fine, committed to the court of Areopagus the guardianship of the laws, of religion and of education [594].

Q. Did the changes introduced by Solon in the Athenian government prove a sufficient barrier to political factions ?

A. They did not : the Athenians soon fell a prey to civil dissensions, of which Pisistratus [561] availed himself to seize the supreme power. His two sons, Hyppias and Hypparchus, succeeded him ; but the latter having been killed, the former became so arbitrary that he was driven out of Athens by the people [508]. Hyppias retired to the court of Darius, and conducted the Persians when they invaded his country : he was slain at the battle of Marathon.

Q. What was the most brilliant period of Athenian history?

A. From the beginning of the 1st Persian to the latter part of the Peloponnesian war. The Athenians of those times accomplished the most wonderful deeds of virtue and courage. Their country seemed to abound in extraordinary men—such were : Miltiades, Themistocles, Aristides, Cimon, Pericles, Alcibiades, Conon, all distinguished by their consummate skill in war and their eminent talents as statesmen ; Socrates, Euclid, Plato, famed philosophers ; Hyppocrates, the prince of physicians, immortalized by his writings and by his services during the awful plague that visited Athens [430] ; the poets Æschylus, Eurypides and Sophocles ; the historians Thucydides and Xenophon..... and numberless others [*].

Q. What was the cause of the Peloponnesian war, and what were its features ?

A. It was caused by the power and pride of Athens on one side, and the jealousy of Lacedæmon on the other. It was carried on in a spirit of revenge, which produced nothing but a continued series of merciless bloodshed and devastation.

Q. How did the Peloponnesian war terminate ?

A. After a contest of 27 years, the Athenians were entirely reduced : their city was taken by the Spartan general Lysander, who demolished their port and fortifications ; took away their fleet, except 12 galleys ; in fine, placed the government of their republic in the hands of thirty Archons, generally styled the *Thirty Tyrants* †. Thrasybulus soon delivered his country from the Lacedæmonian yoke, but a death-blow had been given to its prosperity. Athens continued to decline, till she became subject to Macedon [337], and finally, with her rival and all the rest of Greece, to the Romans [146].

* We will add a few of the most distinguished men of various times.—Philosophers : Thales, Pythagoras, Xenodemos, Heraclitus, Anaxagoras, Diogenes, Zenon, Pyrrho, Epicurus.—Poets : Orpheus, Homer, Simonides, Alcaeus, Sappho, Anacreon, Pindar, Aristophanes, Menander, Theocritus.—Historians : Hesiod, Herodotus, Ctesias.—Orators : Lysias, Isocrates, Æschinus, and his rival Demosthenes.—Statuaries : Phidias, Polycletes, Myron, Lysippus, Praxiteles, Scopas.—Painters : Polygnotus, Apollodorus, Zenxis, Parrhasius, Timanthes, Apelles, Protogenes.—Architects : Ctesiphon, Demetrius, Callimachus, Phidias, and most of the statuaries, &c.

† The word TYRANT with the Greeks signified a governor possessing absolute power.

THEBES.

Q. By whom was Thebes in Greece founded, and what was the general reputation of its inhabitants?

A. Thebes, the capital of Boeotia, was founded by Cadmus [1494], said to be the first who made known in Greece the culture of the vine, the use of metals and the art of writing by means of the alphabet. The Thebans were reputed dull in point of intellect, and were long despised by the other Greeks for having basely joined the Persians. Their most glorious period was in the time of Epaminondas and Pelopidas, who gained over Sparta the memorable battle of Leuctra [371] and Mantinæa [367]. Thebes was taken and utterly destroyed by Alexander the Great [335].

CORINTH.

Q. Where was Corinth situated?

A. Upon a narrow neck of land which joins Peloponessus to the continent. It was called the *eye of Greece*, its situation being peculiarly adapted for giving it a superiority over neighbouring states. The Corinthians were a commercial people; they formed a part of the Achæan confederacy, and were the last who fought for liberty against the Romans.

MACEDON.

(Continued from page 20.)

Q. Who is commonly called the founder of the Macedonian empire?

A. Philip II [360], the pupil of Epaminondas and the father of Alexander the Great. He was of a warlike disposition and a man of great address, but faithless and cruel in the choice of means to forward his ambitious views. The *sacred war*, in which all the Grecian republics united to punish the Phocians for their sacrilegious attempt to plunder the temple of Delphos [*], gave Philip an opportunity to conquer Thracia and seize on the pass of Thermopylæ, whence he advanced into the very heart of Greece Proper. The Athenians and Thebans, though urged on by the mighty eloquence of Demosthenes, were defeated at the battle of Cheronea [338]. Alexander, then 17 years

* The states of Greece deposited their treasures in this temple.

old, commanding the left wing of the Macedonian army. From that time, the Grecian states fell under the control of Philip; he suffered them however to retain their laws and government, being anxious to secure their interest in the plan he had formed for the conquest of Asia.

Q. At what age did Alexander the Great ascend the throne, and to whom had the care of his education been committed?

A. Alexander the Great was crowned in his 20th year. His preceptor was Aristotle, the most learned man of all profane antiquity.

Q. Give a short account of the victories of Alexander the Great?

A. Having rased to the ground the city of Thebes, and caused himself to be appointed generalissimo of all the Greeks against the Persians, Alexander crossed the Hellespont at the head of 30,000 foot and 5,000 cavalry, and defeated on the banks of the Granicus, a chosen army of 100,000 Persians. This first battle gained, he sent home his fleet, leaving to his soldiers the alternative of subduing Asia or perishing in the attempt. At the next great battle, fought near the town of Issus, 100,000 Persians were slain, out of four times that number, whilst the loss of the Greeks was only 450—here Darius, wife and family were made prisoners.—Alexander treated them with every token of respect and generosity. He next reduced Asia Minor and Syria; took and destroyed the famous city of Tyre, after an obstinate siege of 7 months; conquered Egypt, where he founded Alexandria, and was proclaimed a demi-god by the oracle of Jupiter-Ammon; thence, returning through Persia, he fought the battle of Arbela, where Darius lost 300,000 men, out of 700,000; subdued Media, Parthia, Hyrcania, Sogdiana, and Bactriana, and finally penetrated into India. Having descended the Indus to the Ocean, he exclaimed with a sigh: "O that I had another world to conquer!" and began to retrace his steps towards Babylon, when he was met by ambassadors from all contries of the known world.

Q. How did Alexander conduct himself on his return to Babylon?

A. He abandoned himself to every excess of luxury.

All the finer qualities of his nature were absorbed in riot and debauchery ; and he at length fell a victim to intemperance or poison in the 38rd year of his age [324].

Q. To whom did Alexander bequeath his empire ?

A. Being asked on his death-bed on whom he wished his empire should devolve, he replied, " On the most worthy." A long series of wars and intrigues among his generals arose from his answer, each striving to become independent, at least over his own province. Four distinct kingdoms were at length formed : Thracia, which subsisted but a short time ; Macedonia, Egypt and Syria.—This last, founded by Seleucus, was by far the most powerful ; its history is chiefly filled with wars against Egypt, the Jews and the Romans—twenty-four years after the reign of Seleucus, Arsaces, the governor of a northern province, revolted, and founded the empire of the Parthians [256].

Q. What became of the posterity of Alexander ?

A. None of his descendants could obtain peaceful possession of the crown of Macedon, and all came to a violent end.

Q. Who was the last of the Macedonian kings ?

A. Perseus [178] [*], the son of that Philip whom the Roman consul Flaminius had compelled [197] to sue for peace, granting at the same time liberty to all the Grecian cities.—Perseus was made prisoner by Paulus Æmilius, at the decisive battle of Pydna, and carried captive to Rome, where he died in confinement [168]. Macedonia, Thessaly and Epirus were converted into a Roman province, called Macedonia ; the remaining Grecian states, after their subjugation [146], formed the province of Achaia.

Q. What do you remark of the Greeks after the destruction of their liberty by the Romans ?

A. They retained over their conquerors a superiority which military power could not take away ; their country, particularly Athens, continued to be the centre of the arts and sciences, whither all the studious youth of the Roman empire resorted.

* This artful and treacherous prince, to procure the death of his brother Demetrius, persuaded his father that Demetrius aimed at usurping the throne. Philip discovered too late his error, and died of grief.

CHAPTER VI.

Promiscuous Supplementary Questions.

Q. Which were the most celebrated public games of Greece?

A. The Olympic games, in honour of Jupiter; the Pythian, in honour of Apollo; the Isthmian, in honour of Neptune, and the Nemean games, in honour of Hercules. A wreath of olive, laurel, parsley, or of some fruit tree, were the ordinary prizes; the contests were chiefly running and chariot-racing, leaping, wrestling, boxing and quoiting. Musicians, artists, poets, &c., were also permitted to contend, especially at the Pythian games. The Olympic victory was esteemed the most worthy of ambition.

Q. Had the Greeks, like the Romans, public exhibitions of gladiators?

A. No; they could never be persuaded to have them: "Before we permit these barbarous shows, said an Athenian orator, let us throw down the altar which our ancestors have erected to Mercy."

Q. Name the most splendid of the Grecian festivals.

A. All the Grecian gods and goddesses had their appointed feasts; the most renowned were those of Bacchus at Athens, and of Ceres at Eleusis. The *mysteries* were ceremonies of a secret religion, in which none but the *initiated* could participate. To reveal what took place during their performance was deemed a crime of the greatest magnitude.

Q. What was the Neomenia?

A. A feast observed every new moon by the Jews, Greeks, Romans, Gauls, and most of the Eastern nations.

Q. What funeral ceremonies were observed by the Athenians?

A. The bones of those who had fallen in battle, after being strewed with flowers and perfumes, were exposed during three days in an open tent; they were then enclosed in coffins, carried round the city, and finally deposited in a public monument called the Ceramicus.

Q. What were the *trophies*, so frequently mentioned in Ancient History?

A. There were, among the Greeks, wooden monuments erected in the place where some signal victory had been obtained, and were either adorned with real arms and colours taken from the enemy, or had warlike instruments carved upon them.

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Q. What were the words on the monument erected to the memory of Leonidas and his companions?

A. "Go, traveller, and tell Sparta we died here in obedience to her sacred laws."

Q. What happened to the soldier who ran from the field of Marathon to Athens after the battle?

A. Exhausted with fatigue and bleeding from his wounds, he had only time to cry out: "Rejoice! we are conquerors," and immediately fell to the ground lifeless.

Q. What was the *Ostracism*?

A. A mode of banishment by ballot, adopted at Athens to prevent ambitious men from becoming masters of the republic. It was called *ostracism* from the custom of writing on a shell the name of the obnoxious individual. Many of the best citizens became victims of this impolitic law, which was at length repealed.

Q. What was the character of the Athenians?

A. Glory, liberty, and interest, were their darling passions: but their liberty often degenerated into licentiousness; they were capricious, and ambitious; excelled in navigation, and were general patrons of the liberal arts.

Q. How many dialects were used among the Greeks?

A. Four: the Attic, Ionic, Doric and Æolic; the Attic, spoken at Athens and in its vicinity, was the most elegant.

Q. What were the peculiarities of Spartan conversation?

A. Brevity and conciseness; a *laconic* answer was a proverb.

Q. What were the *Gymnasia*?

A. Academies where the Athenians learned the use of arms and all sorts of manly exercises.

Q. What was the Lyceum?

A. Anciently a temple dedicated to Apollo, afterwards converted into a public school where the orators declaimed.

Q. Where did theatrical representations begin?

A. At Athens; comedy was first played there by Suzarion (560), and tragedy by Thespsis (530).

Q. Of what did the Grecian architecture consist?

A. Of three distinct orders, characterized thus: the *Doric*, by its boldness and strength; the *Ionic*, by its elegant simplicity; and the *Corinthian*, the most perfect of all, by its lightness, grace and richness. To these three orders the Romans have added two, the *Tuscan* and *Composite*.

Q. Name the Seven Sages of Greece with a saying of each?

A. Solon, "Know thyself."—Chilo, "Look to the end of a long life."—Pittacus, "Know the opportunity."—Bias, "There are more bad than good (men)."—Periander, "With

30 PROMISCUOUS SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS.

industry nothing is impossible."—Cleobulus, "All with measure"—Thales, "Sureties will soon be losses." The Seven Sages were contemporaries and met several times together.

Q. What was the remark of Anacharsis, the Scythian philosopher, on the laws of Solon?

A. "The Athenian legislator, said he, has committed to the wise the charge of *deliberating*, and left to fools the *decision*."

Q. Which are generally reckoned the Seven Ancient Wonders of the world?

A. I. the brass Colossus of Rhodes; II. the Pyramids of Egypt; III. the Aqueducts of Rome; IV. the Labyrinth of Psammetichus; V. the Pharos of Alexandria; VI. the Walls of Babylon; VII. the temple of Diana at Ephesus.

Q. What are the *Arundelian* marbles?

A. They are ancient marble tablets, found in the Isle of Paros, about the beginning of the 17th century, and supposed to have been sculptured B. C. 264; they contain the chronology of Ancient History as far back as B. C. 1582.—They were bought by the celebrated Earl of Arundel, and afterwards presented to the Oxford University.

Q. Who was Sanchoniaton?

A. A Phenician writer, and the most ancient of all profane historians (B. C. 1100).

Q. Who was Zoroaster?

A. The founder of the Persian Magi, whom he taught to worship God under the form of fire (589) (*).

Q. Who was Confucius?

A. A Chinese philosopher (550), famed for his wisdom, and for his exalted ideas of a Supreme Being.

Q. Which of the Eastern nations took the greatest care of the education of children?

A. The Persians; their sons, not excepting princes, were educated in common, by experienced teachers, at the public expense.

Q. What became of the beautiful city of Persepolis?

A. This capital of the Persian empire was taken and plundered by Alexander, and afterwards burnt by his command in a fit of intemperance. The authorized histories of Darius' realms and the sacred books of Zoroaster perished in the flames.

Q. Why was Agis, king of Sparta, put to death?

A. He was murdered in prison by the Ephori, for attempting to restore the laws of Lycurgus (244).

Q. Which was the most powerful of the Grecian colonies in Sicily?

* This was the second Zoroaster; the first lived near the time of the siege of Troy.

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A. Syracuse, founded by the Corinthians (732). Its history is rendered interesting by the capricious cruelties of Dionysius the Elder and his son, Dionysius the Younger, its wars with Carthage and Athens, and the memorable siege it sustained against the Romans (205—202).

Q. What is related of the Sybarites?

A. The Sybarites, a small Grecian colony in that part of Italy called Magna Grecia, decreed public honours to such as excelled in giving splendid entertainments or invented new dishes. They removed from their city all artizans whose work was noisy, and even the cocks were expelled, lest their shrill cries should disturb the peaceful slumbers of the inhabitants.

Q. In what were the Chaldean priests particularly versed?

A. They were particularly versed in astronomy, practised medicine, interpreted dreams, and professed magic and astrology.

Q. For what were the Phenicians so highly celebrated among ancient nations.

A. For their skill in navigation; their many curious manufactures, such as making glass, silks, fine linens, dyeing; their architecture, carving, &c. They were employed by king Solomon in building the temple of Jerusalem.

Q. Give a few details on the Carthaginians?

A. The Carthaginians were governed during 500 years, without a revolution, by magistrates called *Suffetes*, two in number.—They had many valuable colonies throughout the Mediterranean, and even, it is believed, as far as the Canary Islands. Their armies and fleets were numerous, but composed chiefly of mercenary soldiers and sailors.—They were reputed deceitful in their treaties and commercial transactions, ungrateful towards their military leaders, cruel in their religious rites, frequently offering human sacrifices to Saturn and the Moon, their chief divinities. Their riches arose in part from the silver mines of Spain, once very productive.

Q. Who were the Scythians?

A. The name of *Scythians* was common to all the wandering tribes who inhabited the most northern regions of the ancient world. Under various chiefs and at different periods, they conquered or ravaged nearly the whole of Asia and the eastern part of Europe, whilst many imposing armies have perished in attempting to follow them through their lonely deserts. The Parthians were of Scythian origin.

Q. What remarkable circumstances present themselves to our notice in the history of the Arabs?

A. They are the most ancient unconquered nation in the world and the most abstemious. In them has been fulfilled the prophecy concerning Ismael, from whom they are principally descended: "Ismael will be a wild man, his hand against every man, and every man's hand against him," and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren." From Agar, their mother, they were called *Agarasiae*; hence their modern name of *Saracens*.

Q. Can you give any particular account of the ancient inhabitants of India?

A. Very little is known of them with certainty prior to the conquests of modern Europeans.—Their country was, as it still is, justly famed for the richness and beauty of its precious stones, silks, perfumes and spices. Their religion, characterized by the belief in the transmigration of souls, their laws and customs, have ever made them an easy prey for the ambition of conquerors. Their sacred books or *Vedas* are written in a dead language called the *sanscrit*.

Q. At what date does the authentic history of the Chinese begin?

A. About 800 years before Christ: but their fabulous accounts extend through a period of 272,000 years before the creation!

Their founder was Yao, or, as some will have it, Noah himself. The Chinese kings are divided into 22 successive dynasties, comprising a duration of about 4000 years.—The most gigantic monument erected by them is the famous wall, 1500 miles in length, built (B. C. 215) along the northern frontier of China, to prevent the incursions of the Tartars. It failed of its object, as have ever done similar attempts to arrest by mere artificial boundaries the march of a conquering army.



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